

Warsaw

Model United Nations



**October 2012 Conference:
Economic and Social
Council Guide**



Enhancing the effectiveness of international aid to post-autocratic Democratic Republic of the Congo





Honourable Delegate,

It is our great honour to welcome you to 6th Model United Nations Conference in Warsaw. The council you have chosen plays a crucial role among United Nations bodies. The major concern of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is to discuss and debate over world's economic, social and environmental matters with special focus on pressing development challenges (employment, education, health, etc.). ECOSOC encourages international socio-economic cooperation indispensable to achieve improved quality of life and to enable countries' further economic growth.

This document is prepared to give you an overall insight into this year's which reads as follows "Enhancing the effectiveness of international aid to post-autocratic Democratic Republic of the Congo". Be aware, however, that information presented in study guide is not intended to be regarded as a sole source, sufficiently elucidating raised issue. It only be treated as basis for further researches which has to take into account the policy of your assigned country. Through release of this document we aim at drawing your attention to key aspects of preceding problem and providing you with drafts ideas that you can expand in your policy statement.

We are looking forward to hear your passionate, lively and creative discussions and are convinced that WawMUN 2012 will be an unique opportunity for you to taste at first hand the importance and responsibility which rest with United Nations workers every day.

Should you have any questions or doubts regarding this topic, the content of your policy statement or the Conference itself, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,
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Introduction

To entirely comprehend the problems afflicting Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) nowadays it is indispensable to refer to Africa's history. DRC has always been one of the regions most frequently ravaged by numerous civil wars and riots. It is negatively distinguished by extremely short life expectancy, large number of people infected with HIV virus, the lowest GDP per capita and HDI in the world and levels of poverty and debt overhanging so high that DRC belongs to group of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

Origins of such appalling conditions date back not only to the period of colonialism or artificially demarcated borders, but are also rooted in DRC's subsequent decolonization. Abruptly gained sovereignty resulted in multiple changes in political system which fostered appropriation of state power by dictators or self-proclaimed military services. Bloody regime and terror were commonplace in newly independent country run by despotic national leaders or by intolerant single parties. Despite the fact that freedom of expression, assembly and association were shackled, the system was still being called "democracy".

Following the aforementioned process, DRC transitioned from autocratic to authentically democratic society within a brief period. Although the autocracy has formally disappeared, the remnants of former despotic regime brought economic and social devastation to the country. Dictators have left over a trail of wanton destruction, collapsed state and ruined economy. They caused civil wars along with the production of massive flow of refugees and devastation of infrastructure. Roads, bridges, communication equipment houses, and buildings have been destroyed by combatants.

There is nothing automatic about a democratic succession to a collapsed dictatorship - it takes decades and significant amount of financial resources for a country to recover from the devastation and destruction wrought by dictators. Democratic Republic of the Congo, as great majority of countries in this region, is still struggling with implications and repercussions of its former system. This is an uneven battle for survival which cannot be won by any African county without external aid.

Generous donations and launched educational programs set out by European institution such as European Union and inter-African organizations such as the African Union or Economic Community of West African States failed to achieve desired result. Therefore now the United Nations should take a stand to help Congolese people to create new reality built on stable democratic system.





What is autocracy?

Autocracy is a form of government in which the political power is held by a single individual who has uncontrolled and unlimited power over others.

Autocracy can be divided into 3 subtypes:

- ② Absolute Monarchy (government is controlled by king, queen or emperor whose power is usually inherited or passed down from family members— e.g. Saudi Arabia)
- ② Constitutional Monarch (kings, queens or emperors reign, but not rule – legislation is created by elected representatives – e.g. Great Britain, Japan)
- ② Totalitarian Dictatorship (a regime where government seeks to control all aspects of social and economic life – e.g. Hitler in Germany, Stalin in Soviet Union)



Why this particular region?

Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country with an enormous potential to grow and develop. However, past few decades limited its improvement and left the population of the region in unfavourable condition. There are many factors which influence the situation directly: ethnic diversity and conflicts in neighboring countries (Rwanda genocide of 1994), post-colonial political instability and harmful pursuit of natural resources. Although two missions of United Nations have been operating in Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1999, to solve inner economic problem and accelerate the infrastructure and industry growth we need new ideas that will contribute to improvement of quality of life of the Congolese people. It is the duty of Economic and Social Council to adjust its actions to current situation, identify and investigate the problem and tackle it with efficiency.





Historical background

The first person who ventured into the interior of the Black Africa and resolved the route of the Congo River was a traveler and journalist Henry Morton Stanley. In 1885, after his discovery of Congo, King Leopold II of Belgium formally acquired this part of Africa as his private property and named it Congo Free State. After three decades of brutal exploitation and intensified extraction of the land and its population, Belgian government bowed to international pressure and decided to take over the Free State from the King in 1908.

From then on, Belgian Congo began to develop significantly. Despite ubiquitous reluctance from both white colonizers and indigenous population, economic and social improvements were achieved.

In 1960, due to strong nationalist motives, first multi-party elections were conducted. As a result, Congo was declared an independent republic on 30th June 1960. Congo Crisis originated from anti-colonial incentives, however ended up with concentration of ruling power in hands of one person - Joseph-Desiré Mobutu (commonly known as Mobutu or Mobutu Sese Seko).

Mobutu renamed the country into Zaire, ruled for more than 30 years and contributed to the collapse of the economy. Congo remained the ally of United States of America during Cold War, however the superpower was too preoccupied with the conflict to interfere in the domestic affairs of the Congo. Mobutu's reign is renowned for vast and frequent corruption and highly-centralized power which led to accumulation of huge personal wealth.



[Watch
more about
Kabila's
Congo](#)

The First Congo War which lasted from November 1996 to May 1997 replaced Mobutu Sésé Seko with rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila.





His most noticeable mistake, which is affecting Congolese people to these days, was a decision to give shelter to Hutu – a tribe active in Rwandan Civil War. They quickly became the strongest and most perilous rebel group in the renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several months later, the Second Congo War began, recognized as the deadliest conflict since World War II – 900,000 to 5,400,000 fatalities is the estimated death toll.

Joseph Kabila, the son of Kabila senior, current Democratic Republic of the Congo president, has been in service for the country since 2001 and was re-elected during 2006 voting – first fair and free presidential elections in this state.



Watch
about
democracy
in DRC
nowadays



Actions of the United Nations

Following the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in July 1999 between Democratic Republic of the Congo and five regional states, the Security Council established United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by its resolution 1279 of 30 November 1994 to maintain the ceasefire agreement and watch the disengagement of forces. The expenditure reached \$9 billion and more than 20,000 peacekeeping troops were involved in the operation. Its main task was to implement the resolution 1279 – protect the Congolese people from human rights violations, monitor the political situation after Second Congo War, facilitate the development of the country and enhance social prosperity. One of its great achievements was conducting presidential elections in 2006 – the most complex voting which United Nations ever helped to organize.

October 2012: Minorities in Focus





On 1 July 2010 the Security Council renamed the mission into United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to reflect and emphasize the new phase of development reached by the country. The stabilization operation is still in progress with recent updates regarding its actions and is authorized until 30 June 2013.



Current situation

Economy of Democratic Republic of the Congo is extremely weak, however with vast potential mainly due to enormous mineral deposits (estimated to be worth in excess US\$ 24 trillions). Yet, majority of population struggles with hunger and lack of possibility of satisfying basic needs.

Main export goods of the Democratic Republic of the Congo include diamonds (DRC is the third world exporter), rare metals, copper, gold and crude oil. The country struggles with insufficient infrastructure – after Second Congo War almost all railroad tracks and roads have been destroyed -which is perceived as an obstacle in achieving greater development of mining industry. It is necessary to mention that much of the resource extraction happens on small scale, preventing the market from increasing as some of the investments (e.g. stations for refining of the ores) require higher level of organization to be successful.

The population of Democratic Republic of the Congo still struggles with the aftermath of previous conflicts, distrusted government and inefficient fiscal decisions and plans. With very low Human Development Index (0.286) and GDP per capita of 216\$ the country faces the increasing HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, violations of human rights and food insecurity.

In Democratic Republic of the Congo, its natural deposits appear to be the fuel for internal and external conflicts. The mineral wealth leads to human rights violations (child-labor, 'cleaning' the land for future extraction), corruption and internal conflicts. The majority of companies operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo comes from external investments or holdings and does not pay sufficient attention to the welfare of the state or the environment and the wildlife. Hence, the solution to the aforementioned problem should be an important topic during this year Conference.

[Watch more about
DRC's mining crisis](#)





What should we do?

The basic question that needs to be emphasized when considering international aid and cooperation is: to whom should we give our help? The reality of aid supplying is much more complex than assumed, because every single factor making up the quality of life of a citizen needs to be taken into account. This is why international help is often inefficient – it is not adjusted to the particular case as every problem and conflict originates in different conditions.

We encourage you to take a detailed insight and investigate this matter on your own bearing in mind that:

- ② the population struggles with widespread diseases, lack of access to basic facilities, education - with life expectancy at birth of 48.4 years
- ② the government (although the elections of 2006 were an enormous success of both United Nations and Congolese people) is ranked among the weakest and the most corrupted in the world
- ② the gap in the society is overwhelming, foreign capital tries to extract as much of the natural wealth as it can, with aforementioned 24 trillions USD buried in the ground, 71% of the population lived below the poverty line (in 2006)
- ② Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to the second largest rainforest in the world with annual rainfall reaching 2,000 mm in some places which slows down infrastructure development and majority of population uses waterways for transport

The aforementioned statistics and facts were cited in order to show the Delegates that current situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo is not favourable to rapid development. Therefore, a significant effort should be put into finding solutions that will be efficient and relatively easily applicable at the same time. Your attitude and policy have to be tightly linked to the politics and approach of represented country. Therefore, apart from preparing policy statement, it is necessary for you to develop the idea for the debate.

In order to achieve this, we find it crucial to find the answers to such questions:

- ② Which issue should be considered, changed, altered or emphasized to contribute to overall well-being of the society?
- ② What are the advantages and drawbacks of chosen solution? Will it bring sufficient changes combined with causing possibly little unexpected harm?





- ❶ Is it applicable and well-adjusted to the current situation?
- ❷ Is it original? Have I checked whether similar ideas worked in other cases? Maybe current resolutions already constitute alike solution?



What you need to prepare?

The council's task is to produce a resolution suggesting a solution to the problem outlined in this guide. In order to facilitate achieving our common goal we kindly request each delegate in our Council to prepare position papers, policy statements as well as notes in the form of a draft resolution.

Policy statements

It is basically the overview of country's policy towards each subject. Therefore, each country delegate should prepare a policy statement. The desired length of the statement is about 2 minutes. In the beginning of the discussion each delegate will be asked to present the document in order to familiarize other delegates with the country's policy. It will be useful later for finding co-submitters of the resolution.

The delegates are required to send their policy statements to Chairs until 19th October.

Draft resolutions

Prepare draft resolution beforehand makes lobbying more efficient. You may base your resolution on those submitted by the UN (especially Preambulatory Clauses). However, remember that the idea of Model United Nations is to find and present new, innovative solutions to the international problems. Rewriting the actual UN resolutions in whole is strictly prohibited. Draft resolutions will be discussed during informal lobbying. You may prepare your own, complete propositions and find the countries willing to co-submit your draft or you can prepare solely your desired clauses and search for appropriate draft resolution introduced by another member of the council, in which they can be implemented. Tips on writing the documents, as well as information about the Opening Speech, which not every delegate has to prepare can be found on our website (www.wawmun.pl). We recommend studying the WawMUN Instruction Booklet, especially if it is your first conference.





While preparing to the Conference please bear in mind that:

- ② you, as a Delegate, always represent your country's policy, not your personal attitude
- ② you should not duplicate ideas or solutions from United Nations resolutions
- ② you should not propose any kind of military activities, as this does not lay in the Council's competence
- ② you should familiarize yourself with relevant documents (UN resolutions, sources)

We remind you to acquaint with your country attitude and to prepare policy on this issue prior to the arrival to the 2012 Conference as the solutions on shallow level of analysis of this complex matter **are not in order**. We wish you fruitful preparations. Knowledge of the rules will allow you to fully participate in discussions.



Further reading & sources

1. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/documents.shtml>
 - relevant UN documents regarding the topic
2. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/monusco/background.shtml>
 - the overall background of the mission
3. <http://monusco.unmissions.org/>
 - official website of current United Nations mission to DRC
4. <http://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/democratic-republic-congo-ngo-international-aid-poverty-healthcare>
 - obstacles for international aid and NGO's workers in DRC
5. http://www.rescue.org/where/democratic_republic_congo
 - International Rescue Committee reports
6. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/oct/29/congo-militias-mobilising-again?INTCMP=SRCH>
 - social concern for the nearest elections

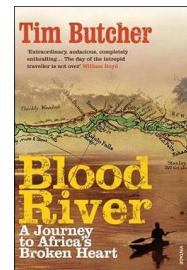




7. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jul/22/africa-wealth-devoured-tyrants-vultures>
 - obstacles for DRC's development
8. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Africa-West--Central/Congo-Democratic-Republic/>
 - Department for International Development report
9. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/apr/10/hard-road-healthcare-congo-poor>
 - conditions of healthcare in DRC
10. http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/minority/docs/Forum_On_Minority_Pub_en_low.pdf
 - MUN Manifesto (general guide to Model United Nations)

Apart from foregoing articles, it is always exceptionally helpful to visit the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/congo>) and BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13283212>) websites in order to be kept updated about current situation in DRC.

Moreover, we strongly encourage you to refer to “Blood River” written by “The Daily Telegraph” journalist and traveler, Tim Butcher. The author describes his journey to the heart of Africa, DCR, immediately after the end of civil war – in 2004. This easy-to-read novel will provide you with a deeper insight into actual effectiveness of United Nations help programs conducted in DRC and acquaint you in a simple way with country's history.



See you in October!

